Protection of Pachyderm

1369. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a seminar on protection of Pachyderm, organized in Guwahati on January 19, 2002 by the coordinating organization of Non-Government Organizations, involved in conservation of Forests, Wildlife and Environment (CONGOFORM):

(b) if so, what factors were identifed as responsible for mutual intolerance between the Pachyderm and Homo-sapiens;

(c) what recommendations and suggestions were made to protect and promote this sapiens; and

(d) the latest figure of elephant population in the country and how much of it is in Assam and in other North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The latest estimates indicate that there are over 28,000 elephants in the country, of which about 5300 are in Assam and 3600 in other North-Eastern States.

Dumping of plastic waste

1370. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been a favoured ground for dumping of plastic wastes;

(b) whether Denmark and other countries had been sending illegally plastic waste to India for recycling; if so, whether any action has been taken against those countries; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any law banning such dumping of plastic waste; and

(d) if not, whether Government would take action to frame a law to ban dumping of plastic waste; if not, the reasons therefor?